

would be your first expedient in the attempt to substitute that regularity and constraint which they hate, for that lawless liberty which they love ? How could you reduce them to be conscious, or incite them to be proud, of those wants, for being subject to which they would regard you as their inferiors ; wants of which, unless they could comprehend the refinement, they must necessarily despise the debility ? By what magic are you to render visible and palpable any part of the world of science or of abstraction, to beings who have hardly words to denominate even their sensations ? And by what concentrated force of all kinds of magic together, that Egypt or Chaldea ever pretended, are you to introduce humanity and refinement among such creatures as the Northern Indians, described by Mr. Hearne ?* If an animated young philanthropist still zealously maintained that it might be done, I should be amused to think how that warm imagination would be quelled, if he were obliged to make the experiment. It is easy for him to be romantic while enlivened by the intercourse of cultivated society, while reading of the contrivances and the patience of ancient legislators, or while infected with the enthusiasm of poetry. He feels as if he could be the moral conqueror of a continent. He becomes a Hercules amidst imaginary labour; he traverses untired, while in his room, wide tracts of the wilderness; he surrounds himself with savage men, without either trembling or revolting at their aspects or fierce exclamations, or the proudly exhibited and vaunted trophies of their sanguinary exploits ; he makes eloquent speeches to them, not knowing a word of their language, which language, if he did know it, he would find a wretched vehicle for the humblest of his meanings ; they listen with the deepest attention, are convinced of the necessity of adopting new habits of life, and speedily soften into humanity and brighten into wisdom. But he would become sober enough, if compelled to travel half a thousand miles through the desert, or over the snow, with some of these subjects of his lectures and legislation; to accompany them in a hunting excursion ; to choose in a stormy night between exposure in the open air and the smoke and grossness of their cabins;

* See " A Journey from Prince of Wales's Fort in Hudson's Bay, to the Northern Ocean." By Samuel Hearne, London, 1795, 4s.